

The Beacon

James A. Haley VA Hospital

Rehab Quarterly Newsletter



"Greetings!" To Our New 2CN ARNP

Lucille Grudinskas, RN, MS is our new advanced nurse practitioner on 2CNW. Lucille comes from the Boston VA Healthcare System and has been a member of the VA family for over 13 years.

Lucille received her undergraduate degree from Northeastern University graduating summa cum laude. She served as Class Marshall for the graduating class. Her Master's in Nursing was from Boston College where she graduated with distinction. Currently, Lucille is matriculated in a PhD program at University of Massachusetts in Boston with a focus on health policy and nursing.

Lucille has worked in a variety of areas: critical care, education and gerontology. She is both certified in adult and geriatric advanced nursing. She looks forward to working with the Rehab team at the James A. Haley VAMC.

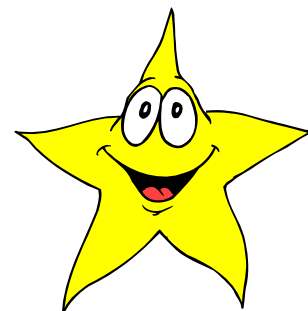


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Golden Star Recognition Program

The Gold Star Recognition Program is a non-monetary award system that recognizes employees for exceptional examples of customer service at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital. PM&RS is proud to announce that its employees shine very brightly! This can be clearly seen by their being awarded with 389 Gold Stars. We have two exceptional staff members, Mr. James Hughes (20 gold stars) and Mr. Peter Liebold (26 gold stars). Along with being recognized by their patients for an exceptional job, they received a \$25 mall gift certificate or a savings bond. To all our employees in PM&RS, "Congratulations!" on being recognized for all that you do and providing good quality care to our veterans.



2004 Rehabilitation Expo: “Improving Quality of life through Technology”

James A. Haley VA Hospital is hosting the 1st Annual Rehabilitation Expo at the Spinal Cord Injury Center on April 17, 2004 from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars and don't miss all the new technology and resources for accessibility. Over 40 companies will showcase wheelchairs, van lifts, customized sports gear, ramps and more! A local wheelchair sports team will be displaying their skills on the basketball court. The Paralyzed Veterans of American Gulf Coast Chapter will be hosting their annual picnic in union with **PVA National Awareness Week**. Please join us for fun, food and learning. Contact Cathy Williams at 972-2000 Ext. 3947 for more information.



Rehabilitation Client and Family Focus Group

The annual Rehabilitation Client and Family Focus Group Meeting was held on February 19, 2004, in the Spinal Cord Injury Center's dining room. The Focus Group Planning Committee can be commended for an excellent meeting. The annual Focus Group Meetings were instituted in 1996 to help the Rehab Unit on 2CN get direct feedback from patients, their families and caregivers on ways to continually improve the unit. Suggestions on ways to improve the Rehab Unit or the facility were documented. Generally, there are several major suggestions documented after each Focus Group Meeting, but if there is only one suggestion to help clients, then the meeting is still considered successful.

Two space concerns were verbalized at this meeting. The first being the assessment of four patients to a room thus making the room space inadequate. The second address too few parking spaces being allotted

to the families. Another key issue that a Focus Group participant brought to our attention concerned something that happened to him in the dining room. He was in a wheelchair and was not able to stand. The tray line was too high for a person in a wheelchair to see the food being served. Therefore, when asked by the servers what he would like to eat, he could not respond. The Chief of Dietetic Service has been contacted for her recommendation(s) and input on how to improve this situation.

We want to say “Thank You” to the attendees: Mr. Bill Ferrell, Mr. & Mrs. Austin Myers, Mr. Ed Hohenthanner, Mr. Authur Crook, and Mr. & Mrs. Carl Chandler.

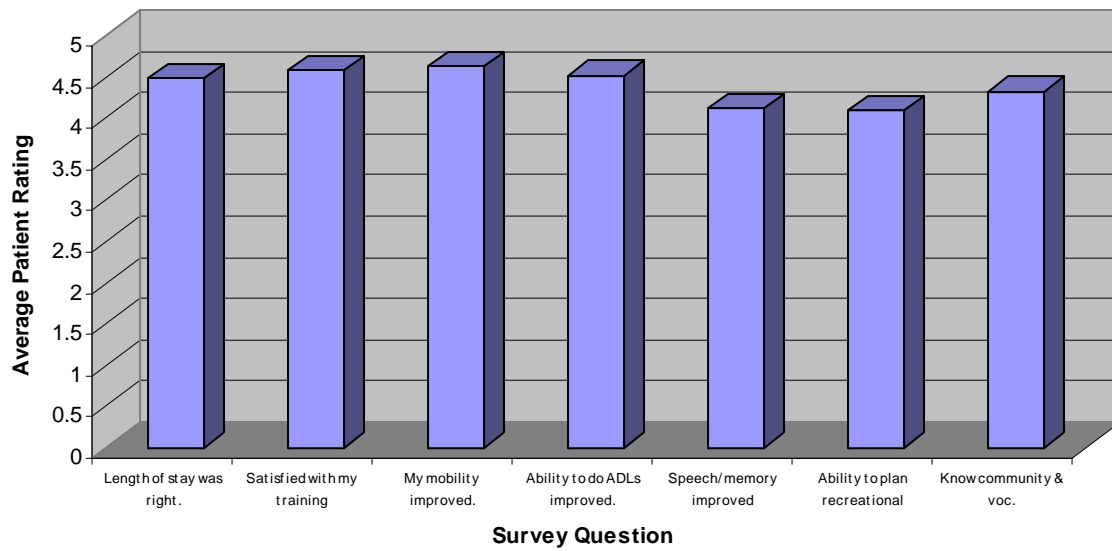
Staff:

Dorothy Commodore, RN
Jim Switzer, PT
Marti Veneman, RN (Moderator)
Lucille Grudinkas, RN
Dyanne Havner, Chief of OT
Susan Smith, OT
Doug Gephart, PM&RS Coordinator

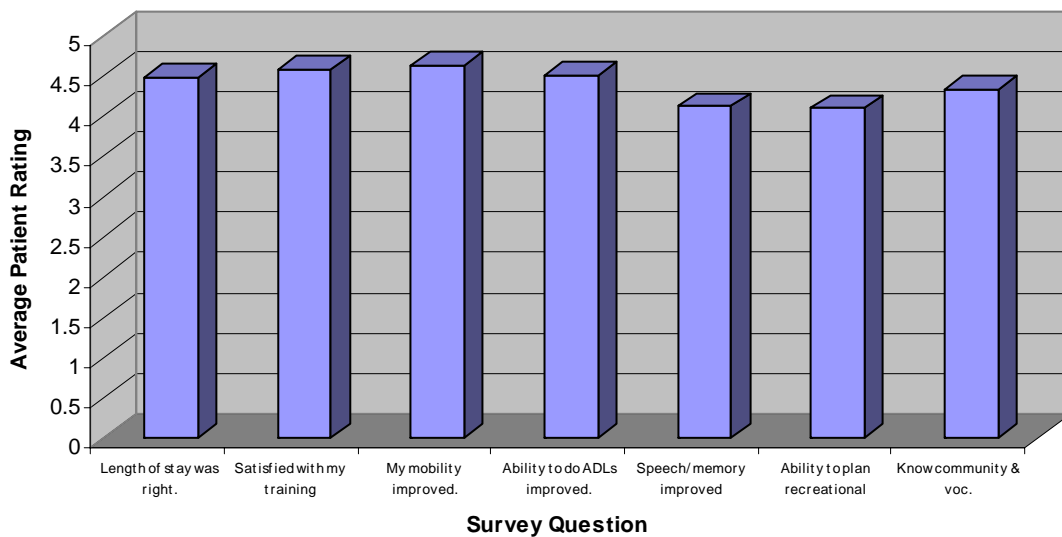


Performance Improvement

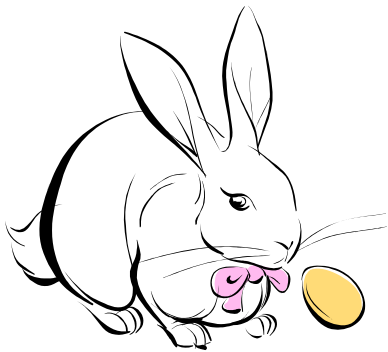
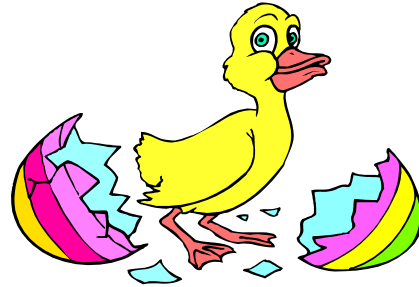
2CN Patient Satisfaction Survey:
Quarter 1 2004



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The Beacon
James A. Haley VA Hospital
C/O The Beacon #117
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33612

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To reach "The Beacon", please write to: James A. Haley VA Hospital c/o The Beacon #117, 13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa, FL 33612

Editorial Staff: Julie Williams - OT, Barb Darkangelo - PT, Steve Wilson - RT,
and Doug Gephart - Rehab Coordinator
